FLINDERS COLLEGE OF DISTINGUISHED EDUCATORS
TERMS OF REFERENCE

Mission Statement
The Flinders College of Distinguished Educators (the College) celebrates and endorses outstanding achievement in teaching and learning at the university level as nationally recognised by the Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC). It does this by formalising Flinders University's ALTC award winners into a network of educational leaders whose continuing engagement with learning and teaching issues is enhanced through mutual support. The College provides a framework of peer support for other potential applicants for ALTC citations, awards and grants via a relationship with the Flinders Teaching Quality Network (FTQN).

Background Statement
Flinders University has a firm commitment to quality teaching and learning practice, as summarised by its three education-focused strategic goals:

1. providing quality programs;
2. offering programs relevant to all stakeholders; and
3. fostering a student-focussed approach to education.

Within this strategic orientation for the promotion and recognition of excellence in teaching and learning, an opportunity exists to develop a more systematically integrated approach to developing effective mechanisms by which excellent university-level teaching practice can be harnessed, nurtured and celebrated.

Informal peer support networks and arrangements already exist, and these have contributed to Flinders becoming one of Australia's pre-eminent ALTC-recognised universities. However, a more integrated approach is needed if we are to maintain this status. The formalisation of networks through the establishment of the College and the FTQN, together with alignment of institutional systems, is one measure intended to achieve this.

Rationale and Purpose
It is hoped that full members of the College will:

• be a resource and an inspiration to others;
• provide advice and feedback on best practice and policy development within the university teaching and learning context;
• meet with potential applicants for ALTC citations/awards/grants who have been identified through their membership of the FTQN;
• establish a series of discussions to assist applicants through the application process, including participation in workshops on the application experience;
• offer critical feedback for applicants;
• provide institutional support and cross-disciplinary networks;
• participate in workshops aimed at improving teaching and learning in identified priority areas.
Associate members of the College may be called upon to undertake some or all of these responsibilities from time to time. These undertakings will be aided and supported academically and administratively by the Academic Development Team within the Staff Development and Training Unit in conjunction with the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic).

The purposes of the College are to:

- celebrate and endorse outstanding ALTC-recognised national achievement in relation to university-level teaching;
- create a group of educational leaders whose continuing engagement with university-level learning and teaching issues can be enhanced through mutual support;
- mentor and assist members of the FTQN;
- generate institutional ability to offer workshops and identified priority areas for staff interested in improving their scholarship and practice in university-level teaching and learning;
- provide peer review and evaluation of draft ALTC citation/award/grant applications;
- lead and develop teams to bid for significant external teaching and learning grant funding;
- facilitate links between Flinders staff and staff in other universities, such as those in Innovative Research Universities Australia; and, ultimately
- enhance the University’s capacity for research and excellent practice in university-level learning and teaching.

These activities will occur within the framework of strategic, professional and administrative support and infrastructure offered by the Staff Development and Training Unit in conjunction with the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic). Time release may be provided to allow College members to achieve these purposes, at the discretion of the DVC(A).

**Membership Criteria**

a) Membership may be granted to recipients of the ALTC-sponsored national university teaching awards, including ALTC teaching and program awards and the Prime Minister’s Award for Australian University Teacher;

b) Associate membership may be granted to Flinders staff who have, individually or as team leaders, previously obtained ALTC grants and citations.

Eligible staff shall receive a letter of invitation to join the College. Notification of acceptance will be via contact with the Administrative Officer, Teaching Awards and Grants.